EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency

Gulf of Mexico Program Director's Report

Jul/Aug/Sep/Oct 2003

In This Issue:

World Water Monitoring Day a Great Success!

The Gulf of Mexico Program Office was honored Oct. 15 with a visit by EPA Assistant Administrator for Water, G. Tracy Mehan.

In support of World Water Monitoring Day, Mehan and GMP Deputy Director Bryon O. Griffith joined students from Hancock County and Bay High Schools in Kiln and Bay St. Louis, Miss., at Bayou LaTerre to conduct water monitoring.

EPA joined America's Clean Water Foundation and the International Water Association in inviting citizens and organizations from around the globe to share in the experience of water quality monitoring. World Water Monitoring Day serves as a global educational platform for watershed leaders, educators and trained volunteers to help those who are less experienced better understand how the actions of individuals in a watershed can impact many others.

From Sept. 18 to Oct. 18, citizens throughout the world community had an opportunity to monitor the quality of their local watersheds and enter the results of their efforts into an international database. Then, on October 18, they all celebrated World Water Monitoring Day together.

Last year, over 75,000 people across the United States took part in National Water Monitoring Day. They participated in water quality monitoring, educational outreach opportunities and water festivals. Over 5,150 monitoring sites were registered across the country as citizens, volunteer monitors and government officials joined together as they followed through with testing on over 70 percent of the sites initially registered.

G. Tracy Mehan, III, and Bryon Griffith assist Hancock County High School student Lindsey Lind conduct water monitoring at Bayou LaTerre in Hancock County Mississippi. Data from the monitoring events are placed in an international data base found at http://www.worldwatermonitoringday.org.

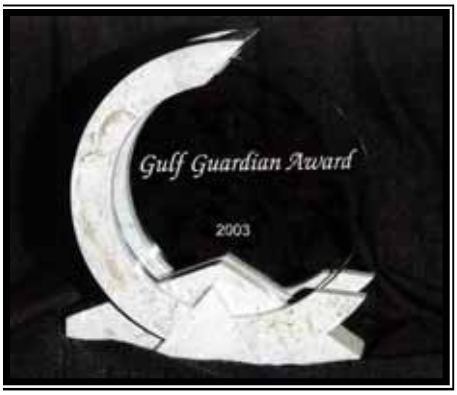
EPA Publishes New Guidelines for the NPS Program

EPA recently published new guidelines for the National Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program implemented under section 319 of the Clean Water Act. These guidelines completely replace all previous NPS grants guidance guidelines beginning in fiscal year 2004.

The guidelines focus approximately one-half of section 319 dollars on the remediation of impaired waters through the development of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), and the development and implementation of watershed-based plans.

These plans provide an analytical framework for assessing the sources of water pollution; estimating the amount of pollutant reduction needed to achieve water quality standards; identifying the management measures whose implementation will enable those reductions to be achieved; and identifying financial and regulatory tools, as appropriate, that will enable the watershed plan's goals to be achieved.

These guidelines were published in the *Federal Register* Oct. 23, and are posted on EPA's NPS web site at: http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps



Gulf Guardian Award Winners Honored at Southern States Environmental Conference

Winners of the 4th Annual Gulf Guardian Awards Ceremony were honored Sept. 24 at the Southern States Environmental Conference & Exhibition held in Biloxi, Miss., at the Coast Convention Center.

EPA Region 4 and 6 Regional Administrators Jimmy Palmer and Mayor Richard Greene were on hand to make the presentations to the winners in front of a breakfast crowd of nearly 200.

For a list of all the winners (reported in a previous edition of this report), please visit the Gulf of Mexico Program web site at:

http://www.epa.gov/gmpo

Click on the Gulf Guardian Award button on the right.

The Gulf of Mexico Program wishes to thank our Partnership for making these awards possible with a special thanks going to the Gulf of Mexico Foundation, Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi Farm Bureaus and the Florida Department of Agriculture.

Arkansas Watershed Meeting

"The Bayou (Bayou Bartholomew) may be one of the most biologically diverse freshwater streams in North America."

On Sept. 11, the Arkansas Soil & Water Conservation Commission hosted the State's Watershed Meeting as part of the Lower Mississippi River Sub-basin Committee's initiative to identify "Showcase Watersheds" in each of the Lower Basin States. The Arkansas meeting was held at the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission's Delta Center in Pine Bluff and focused on Bayou Bartholomew which is a million acre watershed with 300 stream miles. The Bayou may be one of the most biologically diverse freshwater streams in North America.

Meeting participants included the Natural Resource Conservation Service, counties in the watershed, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Forestry Service, Arkansas Forestry Commission, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Cooperative Extension Service, the Gulf of Mexico Program, Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department, Bayou Bartholomew Alliance, Arkansas Audubon, USGS, and the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality.

The Bayou is on Arkansas's 303(d) list with its only impairment being sediments. Sources include forestry/ silviculture, development, and agriculture. The landscape reflects 30 percent rowcrop, two percent urban, 60 percent forest and eight percent pastureland.

Most 319 projects focus on sediment reduction activities and best management practices (BMPs). The challenge is to relate existing programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, and the Master Farmer Program to nitrogen load reductions.

There are currently 29 water quality monitoring stations or sites along the 300 miles of stream. Three of these belong to USGS and 26 stations belong to ADEQ. Data for the DEQ sites are available from 1998 to 2000 on their website.

In order to establish nitrogen baselines and reduction information,

Continued on Page 9....

Lower Mississippi River Sub-basin Committee

Scientific investigations document a zone on the Gulf of Mexico's Texas-Louisiana Shelf with seasonally low oxygen levels (<2mg/l). The hypoxic zone is a result of complicated interactions involving excessive nutrients, primarily nitrogen, carried to the Gulf by the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers; physical changes in the basin, such as channelization and loss of natural wetlands and vegetation along the banks as well as wetland conversions throughout the basin; and the stratification in the waters of the northern Gulf caused by the interaction of fresh river water and the saltwater of the Gulf.

A significant portion of the nutrients entering the Gulf from the Mississippi River come from human activities: discharges from sewage treatment and industrial wastewater treatment plants and stormwater runoff from city streets and farms. Nutrients from automobile exhaust and fossil fuel power plants also enter the waterways and the Gulf through air deposition to the vast land area drained by the Mississippi River and its tributaries.

The Hypoxia Action Plan describes a national strategy to reduce the frequency, duration, size and degree of oxygen depletion of the hypoxic zone of the northern Gulf of Mexico. The Plan is the result of several years of study and discussion by the members of the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force. The work of the Task Force has provided a basin-wide context for the continued pursuit of both incentive-based, voluntary efforts for nonpoint sources and existing regulatory controls for point sources.

The primary approaches to reduce hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico appear to be to 1) reduce nitrogen loads from watersheds to streams and rivers in the Basin and 2) restore and enhance denitrification and nitrogen retention within the Basin and on the coastal plain of Louisiana. While the primary focus is on reducing nitrogen loads to the northern Gulf, many of the actions will also achieve basinwide improvements in surface-water quality by reducing phosphorus as well. Likewise, actions taken to address local water quality problems in the basin will frequently also contribute to reduction in nitrogen loadings to the Gulf

The Action Plan proposes an implementation approach to carry out an initial set of 11 priority actions. Action #2 requests States and Tribes in the Basin to establish sub-basin committees to coordinate implementation of the Action Plan by major sub-basins and Action #6 requests these sub-basin committees develop strategies for nutrient reduction. The Lower Mississippi River Sub-basin Committee was formed in April of 2002 and includes the States of Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Louisiana and Mississippi.

The overarching goal of the Sub-Basin Committee is to restore the ecological balance of the watershed. The Committee has identified a watershed in each state where success could be assured. The objective is to identify a reasonably sized watershed project to implement activities and to combine resources to demonstrate how a specific landscape activity could be transferred to any basin.

Five of the Lower Mississippi River Basin states have selected a specific focus watershed to assess site-specific load reductions and implementation of one or more appropriate management practices.

The Louisiana Governor's Office convened a short workshop on July 10, 2003 and identified Cabin-Teele and Joe's Bayou in the Tensas Basin as candidate watersheds.

Tennessee will be working in the Lower Hatchie River Watershed.

On Sept. 11, the Arkansas Soil & Water Conservation Commission hosted a Watershed Meeting and focused on Bayou Bartholomew which is a million acre watershed with 300 stream miles.

The Missouri meeting was held at the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service state office Oct. 28. This effort will be a locally-led watershed based approach to reducing hypoxia and the St. Francis River Watershed is the most likely candidate.

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality has identified Lake Washington where land use is primarily agricultural with some forested areas. Lake Washington has experienced a gradual decline in water quality over the last 30 years. In 1991, results of a study showed that Lake Washington was experiencing nutrient enrichment as a result of high phosphorus and nitrogen concentrations in the lake

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Gulf of Mexico Program Office (GMPO)

National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory-Gulf Ecology Division (NHEERL)

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS)
NESDIS CoastWatch - GOM Node
National Oceanographic Data Center (NODC)
National Ocean Service (NOS)
NOS Center for Coastal Monitoring and Assessment (CCMA)
NOS Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research (CCEHBR)
Coastal Services Center (CSC)
National Weather Service (NWS)
NWS National Data Buoy Center (NDBC)
United States Navy
Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command (CNMOC)
U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVOCEANO)
Naval Research Laboratory (NRL)
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
Earth Science Applications Directorate
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
Waterways Experiment Station
National Office for Integrated and Sustained Ocean Observations (IOOS)

National Association of Marine Laboratories (NAML)
LABNET
Cast-Net
Belle W. Baruch Institute for Marine Biology and Coastal Research
University of Colorado, Colorado Center for Atmospheric Research (CCAR)

Gulf of Mexico States Governors Accord

The Working Groups of the Gulf of Mexico States Accord (GoMSA) met in Merida, Mexico Oct. 1-3. The Gulf of Mexico Program, at the request of the binational leadership of the Accord, has been assisting in integrating efforts in both countries to detect, track and ultimately forecast the occurrence of "Red Tides" around the Gulf of Mexico.

Leaders of the 11 binational states bordering the Gulf met to review the status of technical and administrative efforts underway to bridge the respective programs.

In December, the Gulf of Mexico Program Office (GMPO) will undertake a comparative study of the decision systems approaches used by both countries to address the management of Red Tide events. The study will help refine the current pilot Harmful Algal Blooms Observing System (HABSOS) data portal application system developed by NOAA's National Coastal Data Development Center (NCDDC), in partnership with those found to the left and below.

Over the next 12-18 months, the GMPO will continue to facilitate cooperative efforts through the GoMSA to expand this partnership to include the appropriate Federal, State and local interests in Mexico. The next meeting of the GoMSA Working Groups is scheduled to take place in Tampico, Mexico, Jan. 22-23, 2004. The Working Group on Health, Ecology and the Environment will continue to assess and help guide the systems study and related efforts to fully integrate the region's Red Tide programs into a comprehensive binational HABSOS framework.

State of Florida
FWC Florida Marine Research Institute (FMRI)
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS)
Mote Marine Laboratory
State of Alabama
Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL)
Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR)
Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH)
State of Mississippi
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR)
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)
Jackson State University (JSU)
USM College of Marine Science (USM)
State of Louisiana
Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON)
Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (LDHH)
State of Texas
University of Texas Marine Science Institute (UTMSI)
Texas A&M University Department of Oceanography (TAMU)
Texas Department of Health (TDH)
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)
Industry
Marathon Oil Company, Climatology and Simulation of Eddies Project (CASE)
Planning Systems Incorporated (PSI)
Neptune Sciences Inc. (NSI)
Anteon Corporation
Veridian

Decentralized Wastewater Management

Fred Kopfler attended the first meeting of the EPA Regional Coordinators for Decentralized Wastewater Management held September 24 – 26, 2003 at the EPA Region 7 Science and Technology Center in Kansas City, Kansas. The purpose of the meeting was to develop an action plan for EPA to implement during FY2004, regarding support for decentralized wastewater management.

Fred Kopfler discussed the activities of the EPA Gulf of Mexico Program related to onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTSs). He pointed out that demonstration projects undertaken to address the impacts of OWTSs on shellfish and recreational waters have resulted in lots of awareness of the issue. He also pointed out the value in using DNA fingerprinting (especially if transferable geographically) to link decentralized wastewater systems to water resource impacts, and mentioned a workshop and some projects that capitalized on current interest in this topic. Fred closed with a few comments on the use of OWTSs to accommodate sprawl development in the coastal region.

Weekend and summer camps also use large OWTSs, and many are poorly managed. A project with LSU seeks to explore different ways of handling effluent from these systems. He also talked about the difficulties experienced in convincing state health departments and other regulators that decentralized wastewater management should be a high priority.

Much of the discussion focused on treatment technologies, applications, and the need for management. The inability of most system owners to properly manage their systems was noted as a general problem and there are no firm incentives or disincentives to adopting the guidelines or elevating approaches under any of the program elements thereof. Comments to address this issue included incorporation of language into the PPAs. Joyce Hudson noted that EPA also distributes grant funds that can provide an incentive. Fred Kopfler reminded the group of the power of outside groups to influence policy developments in states by focusing media attention on environmental problems.

The action plan developed to support EPA's program for the management of decentralized wastewater management includes the following activities:

To overcome the lack of knowledge and public misperceptions about onsite sewage treatment systems it was agreed that EPA will: (1) work to better characterize the impacts of decentralized systems on the environment; (2) continue to develop materials, implement a Speakers Bureau and support national meetings and conferences that focus on educating State/local officials, homeowners and service providers; (3) identify research needed to improve acceptance of decentralized systems; and (4) focus outreach and educational efforts on local communities, including educating homeowners of their management responsibilities.

To address legislative and regulatory constraints faced by state and local governments in implementing public management of onsite treatment systems EPA will: (1) continue to provide technical assistance to states and communities that are in the process of revising their regulations; (2) support demonstrations of performance-based management programs and the NOWRA National Model Performance Code: and (3) facilitate efforts to improve communications and coordination among State agencies responsible for SRF, NPDES and UIC permitting, onsite regulation, nonpoint source and source water protection.

To address the present state of lack of management provided for onsite sewage treatment systems EPA will: (1) involve and coordinate EPA programs which share regulatory authority over various decentralized activities and affected resources; (2) encourage States and communities to develop inventories; and (3) develop report card for state progress towards implementing Management Guidelines process.

To address financial constraints faced by the state and local governments in implementing management of onsite systems EPA will : (1) identify how the $75 million in SRF funding targeted for decentralized systems in the FY2003 Appropriations Act is used. EPA will also provide detailed information on decentralized projects which have received SRF funding, including type of loan, amount and basis of selection.; (2) provide information on additional funding sources such as USDA and HUD programs during outreach efforts; and (3) EPA will explore options to promote management programs when funding decentralized systems using SRF funds.

Headquarters representatives at the meeting announced that decentralized wastewater management will be proposed as an agenda item for the next Water Division Directors meeting.

Where the River Meets the Gulf: Life in Peril in America's Sea

About 1,000 miles south of St. Louis, which lies a few miles south of the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, is a huge mixing bowl of fresh water and seawater where the River water enters the Gulf of Mexico. The Mississippi and Missouri Rivers carry the runoff water from 31 states in the Mississippi River Basin. Scientific investigations in the northern Gulf of Mexico have documented a large area of the Louisiana continental shelf with seasonally depleted oxygen levels (< 2 mg/l). Most aquatic species cannot survive at such low oxygen levels. The oxygen depletion referred to as hypoxia forms in the middle of the most important commercial and recreational fisheries in the conterminous United States and could threaten the economy of this region of the Gulf.

Excess nutrients from human sources such as lawn fertilizer, car exhaust, laundry detergents and agricultural runoff is one of the major stresses on coastal ecosystems. Generally, excess nutrients increase algal growth which when they die are eaten by bacteria using up the available oxygen in the process which causes the hypoxic zone to form.

EPA formed the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force (The Task Force) during the fall of 1997, and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy conducted a scientific study of the causes and consequences of Gulf hypoxia through its Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (CENR). The result of this study led to the development of a strategy to reduce the size of the hypoxic zone. This study is called the *Action Plan for Reducing, Mitigating, and Controlling Hypoxia in the Northern Gulf of Mexico* (the Action Plan) (January, 2001).

The tools provided by the Clean Water Act, and the programs established under the Farm Bill, the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act, and Water Resources Development Acts, are critical to implementing the Action Plan. These existing national programs and initiatives incorporate specific elements intended to reduce nutrient loadings to surface waters and to foster restoration of natural habitats capable of removing nutrients from waters.

EPA is currently working with the State of Louisiana to develop concepts on how to link coastal restoration strategies with water quality improvement strategies such as river reintroduction/diversion projects. Scientists have estimated that these diversion projects could reduce nutrients in the Mississippi River by as much as 10 to 15 percent. This represents an important link and a common interest between coastal Louisiana and landowners throughout the Mississippi River Basin which comprises 41 percent of the continental U.S.

The Task Force is meeting in November in St. Louis, Missouri, to discuss the progress of the implementation of the Action Plan and will review the status of the 11 steps outlined in the Plan as they share innovative approaches to nutrient management.

While the primary focus of this strategy is on reducing nutrient loads to the Gulf, many of the actions will also achieve basin-wide improvements in surface-water quality. Likewise, actions taken to address local water quality problems in the basin will frequently also contribute to reductions in nutrient loadings to the Gulf.

As a result of this meeting the Task Force will continue to critically assess progress to date and advise on specific future actions to be undertaken in 2004 for the effective implementation of the Action Plan.

For two days following the Task Force meeting, prominent agricultural producers will participate in an Industry Led Solutions workshop to identify issues and solutions related to agricultural nonpoint source water pollution. This workshop will be held Nov. 20-21 in St. Louis and will focus on the hypoxia issue and activities associated with agriculture. Participants will include producers from livestock and crop sectors in the Mississippi River basin, EPA Regional Administrators, USDA State conservationists, as well as representatives from the environmental community, financial institutions, municipalities, and non-agricultural industry.

Program Office Employees Exceed Combined Federal Campaign Goal

Employees of the Gulf of Mexico Program were more than happy to support the United Way this year through the Combined Federal Campaign. Program Deputy Director Bryon Griffith and other Stennis Agency heads, were on hand at the Sept. 8 kick off event sponsored by the Grand Casino Gulfport.

Attired in Stennis football jerseys these fearless government and military leaders attempted to show their business counterparts in Coastal Mississippi what's what. Sadly, though we could put a man on the moon, and have science and technology beyond comparison at Stennis, our folks had to bow to the football prowess of Tom Carr from the Isle of Capri corporate office who won the football pass contest.

The GMP's small core of 13 government workers came through where it counts though. Employees exceeded their $1,500 goal by 145 percent and gave $2,170 to local charities.

The total Stennis Space Center goal for all agencies at Stennis is $214,000. As of the first week of November the amount had reached $195,000 with several agencies still reporting information.

Bryon Griffith and Myron Webb discuss passing strategy prior to United Way kick off event.

Mississippi River Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species

Forty people attended an organizational meeting for the Mississippi River Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) held in Bloomington, Minn., July 10 and 11.

The meeting included a symposia on ANS problems and issues in the Mississippi River Basin and a field trip to the St. Croix River to introduce panel members to local ANS issues and responses being made by federal, state, and local governments.

A second panel meeting is anticipated in January 2004, and will be held in Louisiana or Mississippi. Plans include moving the locations of panel meetings to various cities within the 32 state basin in order for the panel to view the Basin's wide array of ANS problems as well as to alternately facilitate ease of travel for all panel participants.

At the organizational meeting, panel members formed three standing committees and elected the following respective chairpersons: Education/ Communication, Steve Schainost, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission; Research and Risk Assessment, Cindy Kolar, USGS; Prevention and Control, Kim Bogenschutz, Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

The panel also established an executive board to oversee operational matters between panel meetings. Board members include the panel chairman, vice chairman, coordinator, committee chairs, a commercial and environmental representative, and tribal and community representatives.

Nutria and zebra mussels are aquatic nuisance species that wreak havoc on the environment.

November and December Focus on Drinking Water Security

As part of the celebration of the Year of Clean Water during November and December, EPA will focus on activities that promote the security of drinking water resources as well as drinking water and wastewater facilities and equipment.

Water utilities today find themselves facing new responsibilities. While their mission has always been to deliver a dependable and safe supply of water to their customers, the events and aftermath of September 11, 2001, immediately and drastically expanded their mission to include security and counter-terrorism efforts. The Water Security Months will help to highlight EPA's significant work and progress in these areas.

EPA and its partners have made considerable progress toward developing tools, training, and technical assistance to address potential threats to the safety of drinking water and wastewater facilities. Some of the major accomplishments include:

!) Awarding $51 million in grants directly to large drinking water systems to assist with compliance to the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002.
2) Awarding more than $30 million in grants to States, Tribes, and nonprofit organizations to provide tools, training, and technical assistance to small and medium drinking water systems as well as
wastewater utilities on vulnerability assessments and related security work.
3) Developing and implementing a comprehensive research plan to address water security needs along with EPA's Office of Research and Development.

As a product of these efforts, EPA has assembled new materials that address some of the concerns about water and wastewater security for a variety of audiences, including the general public, medical professionals, utilities, and others.

The security of our Nation's more than 170,000 public water utilities and 16,000 wastewater treatment plants requires not only the involvement of government officials, but of all Americans.

Below is a list of the new materials that have been developed:

"Water Watchers, We Are All in This Together" -- A brochure for residents that describes how they may help local authorities protect the water utilities in their communities. (Download the brochure at www.epa.gov/safewater/security/flyers or e-mail your order for hard copies to Outreach.Team@epa.gov.)

"Water Security and You" -- A drop-in article for local news media that describes examples of suspicious activity around drinking water and wastewater structures and equipment or water resources.

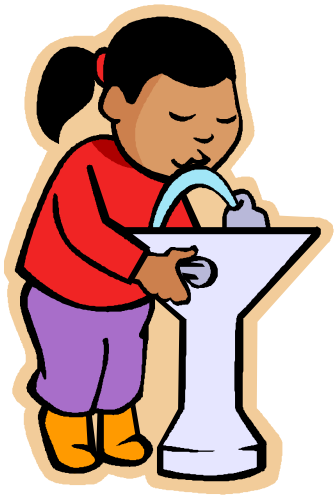
"Drinking Water Security, Report Suspicious Activities:" -- Four flyers for display in local municipal, recreational and commercial buildings to encourage citizens to watch out for and report suspicious activity around water resources, water structures, and equipment. (Download flyers at www.epa.gov/safewater/security/flyers or e-mail your order for hard copies to Outreach.Team@epa.gov.)

"Healthcare Provider Preparedness for Acts of Water Terrorism" A flyer describing a new website for resources to better recognize and diagnose waterborne illnesses related to water terrorism.

"Water Security Progress and Resources" – Four-page flyer highlighting the achievements and ongoing projects of the water security program and its partners. (Download flyers at: www.epa.gov/safewater/security/flyers or e-mail your order for hard copies to Outreach.Team@epa.gov.)

"Top Ten List: Water Supply Emergency Preparedness and Security for Law Enforcement" – Flyer for display in local municipal facilities to help coordination between law enforcement, water supply industry, and public health officials. (Download flyer at www.epa.gov/safewater/security/flyers or e-mail your order for hard copies to Outreach.Team@epa.gov)

"Top Ten List": Visor card version of the above flyer available to EPA Regions. (Download visor card at



www.epa.gov/ne/eco/drinkwater/dw-security.html)

"Water ISAC": Four-page flyer for drinking water and wastewater utility managers that describes the web-based Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center, a secure information system that shares up-to-date information between the intelligence community and the water sector. (Download one-page fact sheet at www.epa.gov/safewater/security/flyers.)

To see how EPA has celebrated the Clean Water Act all year long, check out EPA's website at, www.epa.gov/water/yearofcleanwater

Gulf of Mexico Program

Mail Code: EPA/GMPO
Stennis Space Center, MS
39529-6000

PHONE:
228-688-3726

FAX:
228-688-2709

E-MAIL:
hines-smith.terry@epa.gov

The *Gulf of Mexico Program Director's Report* is produced quarterly to highlight Gulf of Mexico Program activities and events.

Deputy Director
Bryon O. Griffith

Public Affairs Specialist
Terry Hines Smith

We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.epa.gov/gmpo

Calendar of Events

All dates are 2003, unless specified otherwise

Date	Event	Location	Contact
Nov. 15	America Recycles Day	Nationwide	None
Nov. 19	MS River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force Meeting	St. Louis, MO	Larinda Tervelt 228-688-1033
Nov. 20-21	Industry-Led Solutions Workshop	St. Louis, MO	Mary Beth Van Pelt 228-688-1843
Jan.8-9 2004	Mississipi River Basin Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species Meeting	New Orleans, LA	Bill Holland 228-688-3912
Feb. 5-6, 2004	Communications Committee Meeting (Tentative)	Galveston, TX	Terry Hines Smith 228-688-1159
March-April 2004	Next Management Committee Meeting being planned for March or April	TBD	Terry Teague 228-688-1172

Arkansas Watershed Meeting
Continued from Page 2

more sites need to be instituted at an approximate cost off $80,000 to $90,000 per year for five years. Several agency representatives suggested they could offer 'in-kind' services which would reduce the per year cost by about half.

The TNC received funding to work with farmers and landowners on BMPs and are developing an ecosystem restoration plan for the Bayou.

About the Gulf of Mexico Program

The Gulf of Mexico Program is sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and is a non-regulatory, inclusive consortium of state and federal government agencies and representatives of the business and agricultural community, fishing industry, scientists, environmentalists, and community leaders from all five Gulf States. The Gulf Program seeks to improve the environmental health of the Gulf in concert with economic development.